What point does Frederick Douglass make in “The Meaning of July Fourth for the Negro”? What makes his speech effective? What might Douglass’ intentions be with this speech?

How does the introduction to the film *Malcolm X* compare to Douglass’ speech? Approximately how many years have passed between the two speeches? What image does Spike Lee pair with Malcolm X’s speech? When did this event take place? What seems to be the director’s purpose with his intro? How is the audience supposed to feel?

What is Malcolm Little doing when we first see him?

What does Malcolm’s father have in common with the African American leader Marcus Garvey? What happened to him? What happened to Malcolm’s mother?

What impression do you have of Malcolm’s character initially?

What are some of Malcolm’s early adult experiences?

Describe Malcolm’s transition to Islam.

Where does Malcolm X’s anger come from? Does it seem justified? How does he channel or use it?

What role does gender play in Elijah Muhammad’s understanding of Islam?

What makes the Nation of Islam seem militant? What are Malcolm’s criticisms of other civil rights leaders?

What happened to shake Malcolm’s faith in Elijah Muhammad? What happened to their relationship?

What is Malcolm’s philosophy of black nationalism that he comes to after separating from the Nation of Islam? How does his understanding of Islam change with his pilgrimage?